

BONUS PAYMENTS FACT SHEET

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Sharon Bird writes ...

The Australian economy is sound, but we will not be immune from the global slow down. That's why I am pleased that the Rudd Government has taken decisive and early action. Part of this Economic Security Strategy includes providing lump sum payments to pensioners. This fact sheet provides you with more details. I hope you find it useful.

Help for pensioners, veterans, seniors & carers

Life has been getting tougher for many people living on a fixed income.

That's why the Rudd Government has taken decisive and early action to protect the Australian economy from the global financial crisis that started in the United States.

The Government's Economic Security Strategy provides lump sum payments to help Aged Pensioners, Veterans, Disability Support Pensioners and Carers. This builds on the additional support provided to pensioners in the Government's first budget, but also recognises that many pensioners are calling for more help now.

Self-funded retirees, who hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, will receive the same lump sum payments as pensioners in recognition of the tough economic circumstances they currently face.

The Rudd Government's Economic Security Package includes:

- \$1400 for single recipients
- \$2100 for couples
- \$1000 for people receiving the Carer Allowance.

This includes Age pensioners, Carer payment recipients, Veterans pensioners and DSP recipients. Payments will be made automatically from 8 December 2008.



The Government is providing lump sum payments to help Aged Pensioners, Veterans, Disability Support Pensioners and Carers.

Looking after pensioners

In the Rudd Government's first Budget in May 2008, Treasurer Wayne Swan announced the Utilities Allowance would be increased from \$107.20 to \$500 per year for all pensioners and paid quarterly.

The Treasurer also announced a \$500 bonus for aged pensioners.

The Government is also conducting a review into Australia's Future Tax System including measures to strengthen the financial security of seniors, carers and people with a disability. The pension review will report to the Government by the end of February 2009.

More details about the Pension Review can be found at www.fahcsia.gov.au